

THE SIREN



Presented By

Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD

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CHIEF'S CORNER

-Chief Robertson

Welcome to the October 2006 edition of the Siren.

We are very excited to welcome our newest member of the Department, Training Officer Ryan Karjala. Many of you know Ryan and his work as a Battalion Chief with ODF here in Sisters. Ryan was the top candidate in a very rigorous testing process. Ryan competed with very highly qualified applicants from around the West, including a Battalion Chief from a large Washington fire department, an Emergency Management Training Officer from Boise, and a private sector fire trainer from the Willamette Valley. We are pleased to have Ryan as a part of the family. Please be sure to stop by to say hi and welcome Ryan aboard.

Our new training officer will undoubtedly do an assessment of where we are with the training program. Don't be surprised when he asks you your opinion of training and how we can improve it. Ryan will be looking at curriculum, helping with training delivery, creating a career path and promotion path for career and volunteer personnel (fire and EMT). He will also be mentoring and encouraging all of our staff to attend training and to be the best that we can be.

I have been quite busy with public meetings, radio interviews, and newspaper interviews regarding the new fire station project. To date, I have addressed the homeowners at Tollgate, Crossroads, the Kiwanis, Rotary, City Council, neighbors living around the station, and we still plan to meet with Camp Sherman residents, the Chamber of Commerce, and we still have one more public meeting at 701 in October. We have had very positive comments from the public so far. If the levy passes, it will take the Winter months to create the construction documents and to bid the project, with an anticipated construction start date of May, 2007. These are exciting times!

We have begun discussion with Sweet Home Fire (we respond into their Ambulance Service Area in the areas west of the Crest of the Cascades) regarding expanded mutual aid. Currently, we respond to Mile Post 64 on Highway 20, MP 10 on Highway 126, and MP 76 on Highway 22. These landmarks are well within Sweet Home's ASA, but take much longer to arrive than our response times to the same location. They are interested in extending those response lines further into their area when their equipment is committed and unable to respond.

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

-Jeff Liming, Association President

The Sisters – Camp Sherman Fire and Ambulance Association Labor Day Weekend “Fill the Boot” fundraiser was a great success and generated over \$2,700 in contributions! This amount represents a new event funding record by our association. I would like to especially thank Assistant Chief Ken Enoch for chairing the event this year. Many thanks go also to those of you who were able to participate. It would not have been a success without your efforts!

The Sisters –Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection District was well represented by Fire Marshal Wheeler at the Deschutes County Preparedness Expo in Bend on September 24th. Thanks, Dave, for your efforts and to the Association Members who volunteered their support.

Captain Lovegren will again chair our Halloween event this year at station 701. The Association has been providing this community activity for many years and I can tell you from experience that it is a lot of fun for all involved. We expect several hundred kids and parents to attend and we do need your participation. This year we will again be clearing out the hall and bays and offering the “haunted house” and a number of activity booths. Sign up to help at 701.

I am pleased to announce that the National Volunteer Fire Council will be coming to Bend for their fall conference meeting this October and that this national group has scheduled an October 20th dinner with us at station 701 for Director Attendees and Sisters- Camp Sherman RFPD membership. The NVFC is the “voice of the Volunteer Firefighters of America” and promotes the missions and protects the interests of volunteer firefighters nationwide. NVFC Directors from all over the country will be bussed from Bend on that evening for a dinner “in the bays” at 701 to meet and interact with our career and volunteer department members. The event consists of a catered dinner provided at no charge to our members and a live auction of items provided by the NVFC Directors, sponsors and local fire departments. The auction is a fundraiser for the NVFC 21st Century Fund which provides funding for different programs the NVFC is involved with.

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FIRE & EMS EQUIPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

-Captain Ast

As we transition into the fall and winter seasons, our call volume for motor vehicle crashes will likely be on the rise. With the rain, sleet and snowy driving conditions that make it difficult for drivers to see the road ahead at times, please make sure you are visible on the emergency scene. As a reminder, your safety vests must be kept on your turnout coat except in firefighting situations.

As promised, the equipment for the addition of large diameter hose (LDH) to 721 has begun to arrive. I expect that we should have the complete equipment shipment by the end of October. Stay tuned to the training calendar in November and December for training in LDH operations.

The production of our new ambulance will begin soon and the expected delivery is around the first of the year. While the plans for purchasing the equipment to outfit the new ambulance are just prior to the delivery date, we have been invited to consider the purchase of a Zoll 12-lead defibrillator/monitor at a greatly reduced price. While this purchase is early compared to the balance of the equipment, the Zoll is a much needed piece of equipment on our second-out ambulance. The addition of the Zoll will give the second-out crew the same cardiac diagnostic capabilities as the first-out, which will prove to be important with our increasing call volume and more frequent second-out medic calls. The Zoll unit will be the same model and configuration as the one currently carried on 770. It will be carried on 772 until the arrival of our new ambulance.

The new Passport accountability helmet shields that were ordered several months ago have finally arrived.

Please note that the color of the shields has changed. The officer shields are white with red lettering and the firefighter shields are red with white lettering. The change in color was done to standardize our system with the rest of the country that uses this type of shield. The numbers on the new shields are reflective, unlike the ones they replaced, and have been sewn onto the shield, which will add to the life of the shield. As you may have noticed with the old shields, many had been melted during training burn-to-learns. To avoid the same occurrence with the new shields, they are for emergency use only! The old shields will be kept in the "make-up kits" that will soon be arriving, which will be distributed to the substations. In addition to stocking the make-up kits, the old shields will be the ones to use during live fire training.

As always, if you have any suggestions for equipment or PPE that you would like to see purchased, please contact me or any of the other equipment committee members.

Have a safe October and Happy Halloween!



ASSOCIATION NEWS CONT.

-Jeff Liming, President

We expect about 120 visitors in addition to our membership attending. I hope you will be able to attend this event and to also help with set up and take down prep and cleanup. Please call Julie at 701 with your RSVP. What an opportunity to shine!

Thank you for your valuable support of the Sisters – Camp Sherman Fire and Ambulance Association.

APPARATUS NEWS

-Captain Lovegren

First, an update on some vehicle changes: 740 has been turned into the new service truck and the old service truck is now the Training Officer's staff vehicle. Since 740 was our Type 6 from 701 we have put 749 back in service for response from 701. 720 will respond first, and if a crew is available, 749 will back it up. With the warm weather holding on so long we just might have a late season brush fire.

Chief Enoch and I went to visit Braun Northwest to finalize the new ambulance specs. Without going into a lot of detail, we made some minor changes. Before some of the decisions were made we came back and talked with some of the staff for their input. We were very happy with how easy the people were to work with and their product seemed to be made very well. Braun has some very innovative ideas for comfort and climate control. We think when it's completed



you will be pleased with the end product.

720 has a new water level gauge in the rear panel. You will notice it has different colors for each ¼ level. The new gauge is easy to read and has a brighter display.

As the weather begins to change we will start to put the studded tires back on the trucks. Within the next week or

so we will make sure chains are on all the trucks that need them. Some of the vehicles have automatic chains, but we still put chain sets on them in case they fail or break and you need a traction device. The weather can change drastically in a day in Central Oregon so we like to plan ahead.

FIRE PREVENTION

-Fire Marshal Wheeler

I would like to thank Jeff and Jan Liming for their help at the Disaster Expo in Bend on September 23rd.

Halloween is fast approaching and as always we need volunteers to help with the event at Station 701. I've purchased a lot of fun new fire prevention materials specifically for Halloween and would ask you all to re-

frain from opening the boxes prior to that date. Thank you for your cooperation.

Although it's only October, Christmas will be here before we know it and the clothing and toy drive is an important project not only for our Department, but for the community. We will be looking for volunteers as early as November to begin work on this program. If you are interested in helping, please contact me at Station 701. Thanks and have a fire safe month.

TRAINING

-Assistant Chief Enoch

This will be my last Training article for the Siren. It has been a pleasure to be your Training Officer for the past twelve plus years. I am very pleased to turn the Training program over to Ryan Karjala. Ryan comes to us from the Oregon Department of Forestry and has been involved as a trainer for many years. I welcome him and hope you all welcome him to our department.

In fire training this month, Bend Fire Department has brought in a flashover trailer and made it available to our department. It is my hope that we will be able to get it to Sisters or be able to take firefighters to Bend to go through this training. More information will be made available in the near future, so keep watching.

Upcoming training this month:

- October 2nd, Engine Company Standards #2 (hose, hydrants, pumping and SCBA's) Firefighters at 704 drill will be training at House on the Metolius, and all others at Station 701
- October 9th, Salvage Operations, Stations 701, 703 & 704
- October 16th, Defensive Driving at Station 701
- October 18th, EMS Breakfast, Stroke 24/7
- October 23rd, EMS Drill, Infectious Diseases
- October 30th, 5 Monday party, pumpkin carving

There are a lot of good training opportunities this month that you won't want to miss. I will be at the National Fire Academy, returning October 29th. Hope you all have a safe October. If you have any training questions contact Ryan Karjala at station 701.

CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

-Chaplain Hayes

AUTUMN COLORS IN NATURE BECKON

Fall is upon us and our chilly nights are a reminder that the snowflakes are not far behind. This time of year the McKenzie Highway, from the junction down to the valley, presents a showcase of leaves bursting with autumn colors. Belknap Hot Springs is less than an hour's drive west and offers a hot mineral pool to soak away your cares. Farther down the road you can dine riverside at what used

to be the old Finn Rock post office. These extended days of summer are like bonus days just inviting us to take an adventure and see Oregon. While we live in one of the most beautiful and active parts of the state, there are many little "nooks and crannies" to visit, many of which are just a day trip from Central Oregon. So as the days get shorter, slow the pace of your life down some weekend afternoon, fill up the gas tank, and follow your spirit of adventure. You might be surprised at the sense of peace and renewal you'll feel spending a little time with nature.

Happy Trails To You ~ RevSana@juno.com

CHIEF'S CORNER CONT.

We are looking at possibly extending our response a mile or so further for Charlie, Delta, and Echo calls (critical patient calls) when they call for mutual aid. We are also in discussion regarding how our dispatch centers can communicate better in order to avoid duplicate agency response. Stay tuned on this one.

I look forward to seeing you at the Halloween celebration at Station 701 on the 31st. Captain Lovegren and all the volunteers do a great job on this important community event.

As always, my office door is open and I look forward to seeing you.

Please Wish the Following People a Happy October Birthday!!!

- 10-5 Rita Hodge
- 10-24 Denise Wheeler
- 10-24 Dave Parman



COMMUNICATIONS

-Captain Brown

All the communication hardware seem to be in good working order. If you have been issued a portable radio (officers), please contact me to arrange a time so I can check the programming of the channels. There have been a few minor changes for some of the lesser used channels, and I would like to make sure everyone is set up the same. If you are experiencing any problems with any of the equipment, contact me right away as this is not only a communication difficulty, but also a safety concern.

We have tried hard to purchase and maintain like equipment so the operation of every piece is not complicated, but as technology improves this has brought new radios to us that do not operate exactly as the current models. There are very few that are different at this time and if you have the occasion to use them, be sure you are familiar with the specific operation. 744 in Station 704 is the radio I

am referring to. As we budget and receive grants for communications, everyone will see the new models in more apparatus. Again, contact me if you have any questions on the operation of any communications equipment.



SCBA INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

This month I have more information on keeping your issued SCBA equipment clean and in good working order. When you clean the face piece, make sure the first solution is the cleaning/disinfecting mixture. Vigorously agitate the mask while immersed in the solution making sure it is getting into all the spaces and places of the face piece. A minimum of two rinses needs to be done after the cleaning, usually in two more bucket/trays of water. The final rinse should be under clean running water insuring that all the cleaning solution has been removed. Ideally, the

face piece should be cleaned after each use to make sure that nothing is allowed to “grow” in between uses. If your face piece is fitted with a voice amplifier, remember to remove the amplifier box before the cleaning. You will notice a connection point for the electronics (two small pin holes) that need to be sealed off with the rubber protection piece, which is attached to the mount, before immersion. The final step is to let the mask air dry before stowing in the carrier bag. Keep the face piece in the bag when not in use to protect the unit, especially the face lens.

If you have any questions or would like to go over this in person, just catch me on shift and I will be glad to answer any questions.

RESPONSE INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

We are still on track for another year of increased call volume. I think that even without the Black Crater Fire, our total calls would have exceeded last year. This is just another indicator of the increase in our year round residents (growth) and the attraction to our area for recreational opportunities. We all know why everyone wants to be here, the same reasons we choose to live in this beautiful part of Central Oregon. Even though our responses (jobs)

usually center on some type of tragedy for someone, we welcome the chance to make a positive difference in the situation. Everyone’s attitude and action has been complimentary to our department. This is very evident when someone approaches me and passes on a big “thank you” for a job well done. I still have residents thank me for saving their homes from the fire (even though I wasn’t a part of that team). I know it is an appreciation for each one of you in the department for every part that you do contribute for every emergency that we are called to respond to. Good job and keep up the good work!

FACILITIES

-Captain Brown

After this summer and the help from the seasonal employees, the substations are in great shape. Painting completed, repairs done, and general cleanup of the grounds have left 703 and 704 ready for the winter. 701 and 702 are also ready for the colder weather. Once again, if you notice anything that needs repair, bring it to my attention so it can be taken care of.

ure for the funding of the remodel and addition to Station 701. If you have any questions for the building committee concerning the proposed project, feel free to ask any one of the members. This is a big project for our district, but we are planning for the next 25-30 years and trying to anticipate the needs of our growing area. I believe with the input from the representatives of each group, we have a very workable solution and one that will serve us and the community for many years to come. There are copies of the plans up to this point and elevation renditions in color at the main station if you want to look them over.

Remember the election in November and the meas-
